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PRESS RELEASE

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BORDER PATROL AGENTS SECTOR WIDE SEIZE OVER \$250,000 IN NARCOTICS

San Diego, California: In the last 24 hours Border Patrol agents operating at several Stations in San Diego County seized over 400 lbs. of marijuana, valued at \$270,305. Four separate seizures, which included vehicle compartment loads and drug smuggling “mules” (people carrying backpacks over the international boundary), were interdicted.

Agents working in the varied and rugged terrain east of the Campo Station made the largest seizure. On September 19, agents were following footprints from the immediate border area and were led to three large duffel bags hidden under some bushes. The duffel bags contained 25 bricks of marijuana totaling 158.5 lbs. (valued at \$126,800). The marijuana was taken into custody by Operation Alliance.

On September 19, agents working at the San Clemente Border Patrol Checkpoint stopped a 1988 Chevrolet Astro Van where agents found 96 lbs. of marijuana. The driver was very nervous and struggled to answer the primary agent’s questions. The vehicle was referred to secondary inspection where a K-9 unit alerted agents to the gas tank of the van. Upon further inspection, agents discovered 34 cellophane wrapped bundles hidden inside the gas tank. The 96 lbs. of marijuana valued at \$33,600 dollars was turned over the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Within 10 minutes, Border Patrol Agents of the San Clemente Station made another seizure. Agents stopped a 1988 Pontiac Grand Am and discovered 18 cellophane wrapped bundles of marijuana. The driver, a United States Citizen, was referred to secondary since he was very nervous in demeanor. In secondary inspection a K-9 unit immediately lead agents to the roof of the vehicle where 43.3 lbs. of marijuana valued at \$15,505 was found. The marijuana and driver were taken into custody by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

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Today, agents from the Chula Vista Station working in the immediate area of the San Ysidro Port of Entry seized 118 lbs. of marijuana. Agents observed two suspicious individuals exchanging vehicles in a parking lot. Due to the close proximity to the Port of Entry, the surrounding parking lots are common areas for alien smuggling. Agents proceeded to interview these individuals regarding their activity. Their avoidance to questions and nervous demeanor raised the suspicion of the agents. The driver of the one vehicle consented to a search of his vehicle where agents found damage to the rear seat. The seat felt unusually hard and a tear in the seat revealed 35 cellophane bundles totaling \$94,400. The driver, a United States citizen, and marijuana were remanded to the custody of Operation Alliance.

Video footage is available at Sector Communications on Beyer Blvd.